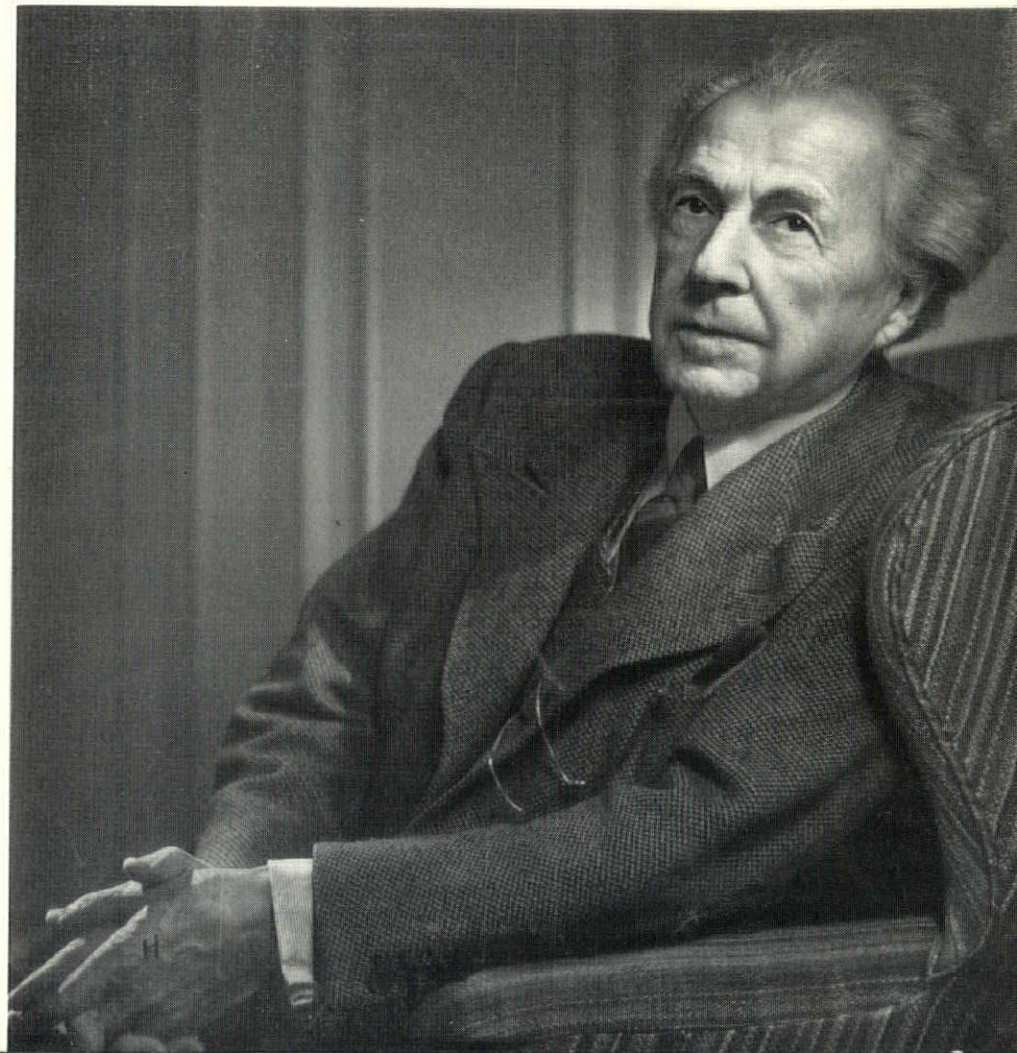
January 1955

the Wisconsin Architect

Convention Speaker



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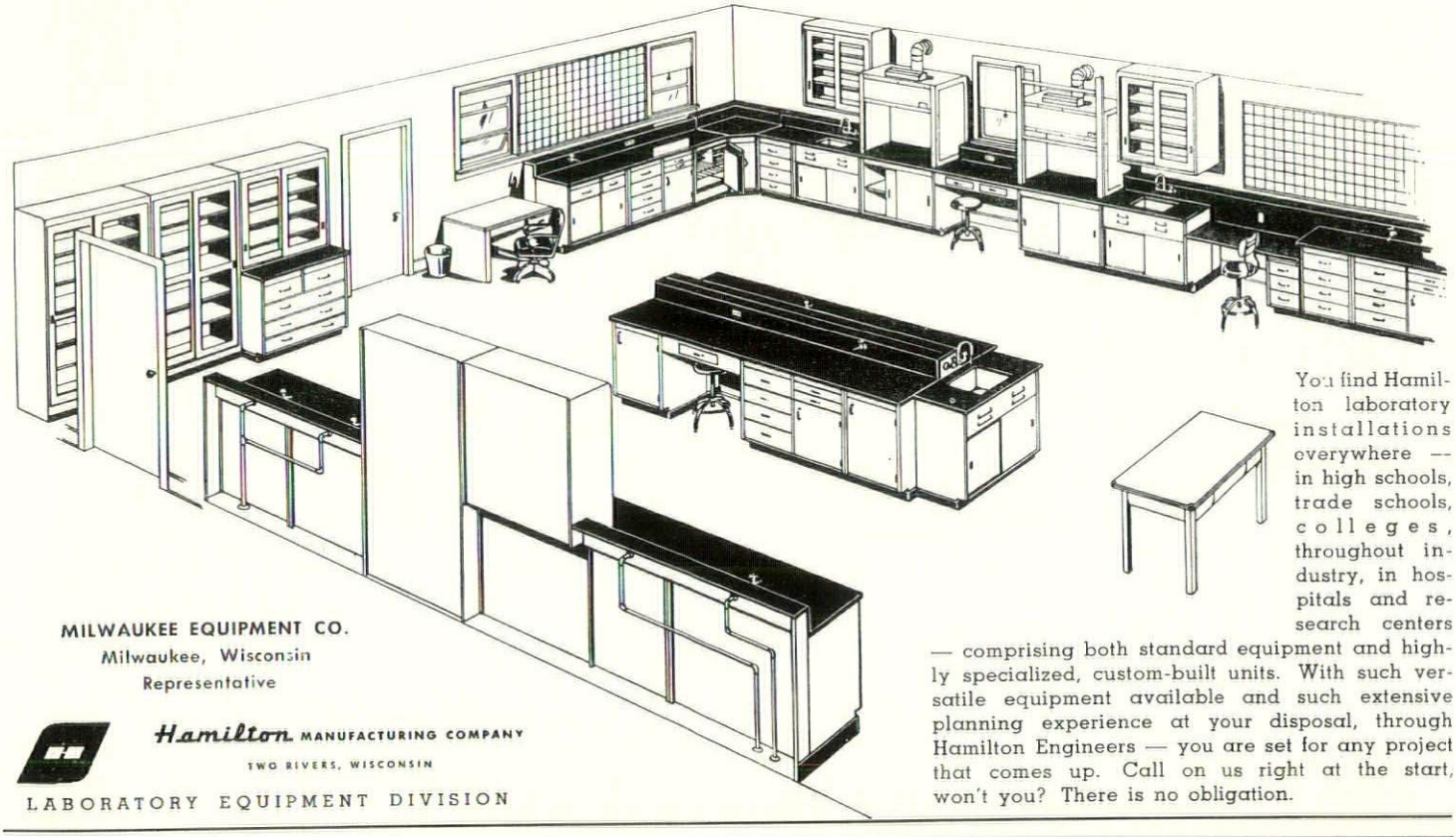

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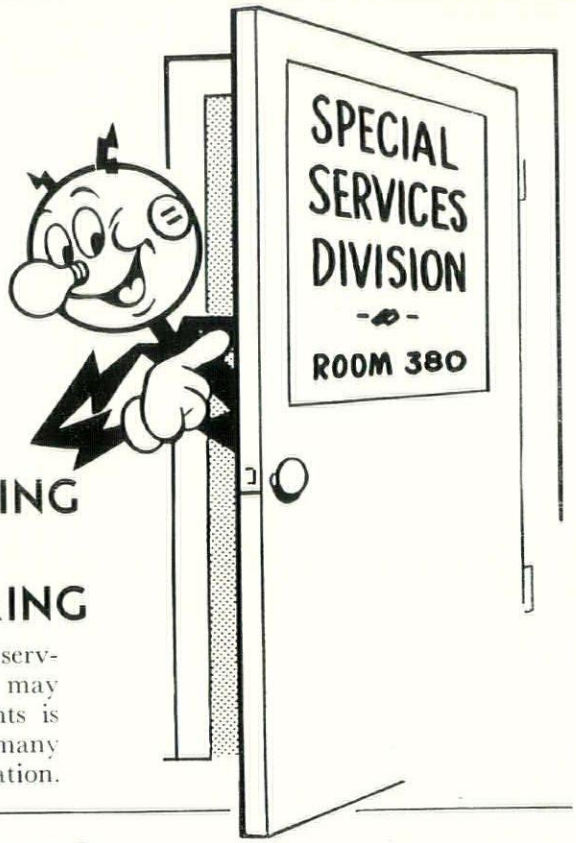

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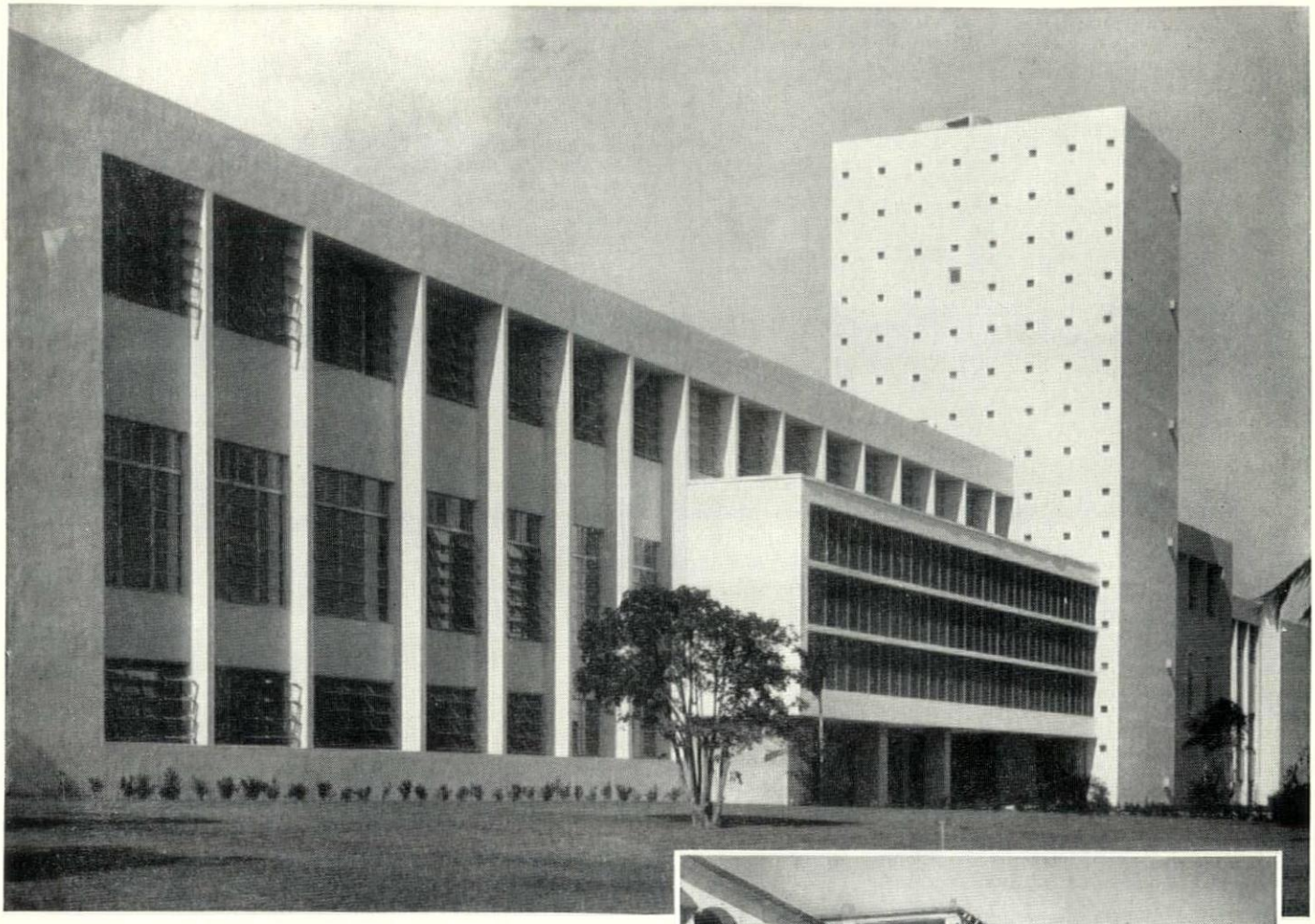

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The photo above shows the completed structure now known as the Merrick Building. The seven-story 100-ft. tower contains faculty offices and display rooms, the wings classrooms and lecture halls.

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It goes without saying that The Wisconsin Architect is grateful to the steadfast corps of companies whose faith in our publication has enabled it to serve architects, municipalities, the Wisconsin construction industry and the public with news and feature material about the architectural profession.

We pledge ourselves to continue to justify our advertisers' confidence.

COVER COMMENT

Our cover photo is of a man whose name, in the public mind, is synonymous with Architecture. This magazine is proud to carry this distinguished Karsh photograph of Frank Lloyd Wright. Another architect (also of national and international repute) once described Wright succinctly to your publisher by saying, "If architecture today occupied the rightful position it held in Renaissance Europe, Wright would be the greatest man in the world".

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A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

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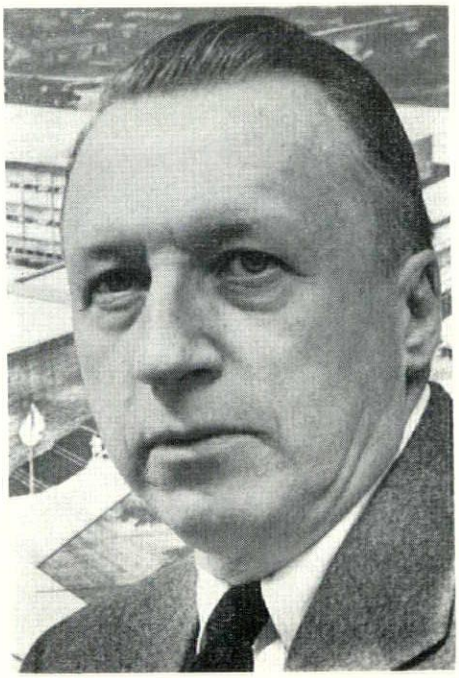
To fill you in . . . .

Distinguished Out-State Architects to Judge 1955 Honor Competition

A distinguished jury has been announced for the 1955 Honor Awards Competition of the Wisconsin Architects Association to be judged in Milwaukee January 28, 1955.

Carl Koch of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Architecture, Harold Spitznagel, practicing architect of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and John Root of the Chicago architectural firm of Holabird, Roct, and Burgee, have accepted requests to serve as the Competition's jurors.

The judging will begin Friday morning, January 28, and is expected to last the entire day. Date of the announcement of award winners has not yet been set. Honor Award Program entries will be on display at the Annual Convention.



Harold Spitznagel

Nominations Made for Directors-at-Large

The nominating committee composed of the three 1954 division presidents, Roger M. Herbst, Milwaukee, Maurey Lee Allen, Appleton, and Thomas H. Flad, Madison, has nominated ten men for the five positions of Directors At Large. Those elected will serve one-year terms on the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Architects Association.

Nominees are: Donn Hougen, Wisconsin Rapids; Karel H. Yasko, Wausau; Leonard M. Schober, Green Bay; and Sylvester J. Stepnoski, Fond du Lac; Herbert J. Grassold, Alvin E. Grellinger, Wallace R. Lee, Jr., Arthur O. Reddemann, all of Milwaukee; Mark T. Purcell, Madison and Emiel F. Klingler, Eau Claire.

Convention to Consider "Reserve Fund" Plan

Plans are being made to ask the membership of the Wisconsin Architects Association at its Annual Meeting February 10 to consider the creation of an "Administrative and Reserve Fund".

A plan, recommended unanimously by the Board of Directors at its January 8 meeting, calls for the contribution by architectural firms to the Association of funds, based upon the number and type of members and employees each firm has.

Funds thus received would be, in the main, set aside as a reserve to be used to operate the Association when and if the current high level of construction declines and the present association dues would be lowered. A portion of these funds also would be utilized to meet operation expenses and continue to broaden the current programs which are resulting in increased benefit to individual architects.

A type of assessment based upon building permits obtained by each architect's office also may be offered for consideration at the 1956 convention or at a special meeting in 1955 in the event the suggested voluntary plan is not accepted.

Association officers and other leading architects have voiced concern over the fact that vital and worthwhile association activities which would result in direct benefits to each architect have been hampered by lack of adequate operating funds.

Sibyl Moholy-Nagy

Nationally Known Speakers to Address Convention of Wisconsin Architects

Frank Lloyd Wright (see cover) will head the impressive list of speakers to address The Wisconsin Architects Association Convention in Milwaukee February 10, 11 and 12 at the Hotel Pfister.

The Convention program, announced by Convention Committee Chairman, Roger M. Herbst, reveals a well-paced series of activities designed to keep the interest of Convention goers at a high pitch.

Discussion will range through down-to-earth details of bidding procedures, thread the labyrinth of law and business regulations as they affect architects, review current architectural education practice, and climax with a seminar on the aesthetics of design.

The Annual Meeting set for 2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 10, will set the stage for the Convention. The election of directors, a discussion of the creation of a Reserve and Administrative Fund, discussions of Institute policy as they affect the Association, and other items will highlight the agenda.

President Sandstedt will open the Convention proper at 9:15 a.m., Friday, February 11, and matters then will move swiftly as architects and representatives of the General Contractors Association tangle with the problems of bid opening date coordination, standardized specifications, alternate bids, the revealing of the identity of subcontractors. This "workshop" will be guided by a panel consisting of Julius S. Sandstedt and Arthur O. Reddemann, President and Vice-President of the Association respectively, and George A. Benish, General Manager of the GCA, and T. L. Cottam of the Hunzinger Construction Co. There is some foundation for a belief that representatives of each of these groups may suggest changes in the policy of the other.

To let the smoke of the morning's program clear away, no speaker is scheduled for the noon luncheon. At 2:30 p.m. Edward T. Bardwell of the Equitable Life Assurance Society will discuss Corporate and Partnership Practice for Architects.

Later in the afternoon Gerald J. Rice, Association legal counsel, will discuss the "Safe Place" statute and the architect's liability under it.

The Convention's Banquet, as indicated, will be addressed by Frank Lloyd Wright and, as expected, interest in this address is at a very high level.

The Convention Committee successfully sought a program for Saturday morning which would not prove anticlimactic. Walter H. Kilham, New York member of the architectural firm of O'Connor and Kilham, who has served on a national architectural education committee, will discuss current architectural education and practice.

Sibyl Moholy-Nagy will lead a conference on "Environment and Design in Architecture". Author, critic and teacher, Mrs. Moholy-Nagy is expected to provide a suitable climax to a worthwhile Convention program.

At each of the seminars time has been arranged for group participation in the subject under discussion.

Architect-Engineer Practice Code Will Come Before Annual Meeting

A proposed "Code of Interprofessional Practice" for architects and professional engineers will be offered to the Wisconsin Architects Association for consideration at its Annual Meeting February 10, 1955.

The code is the result of many months of work by a joint committee representing the Wisconsin Architects Association and the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers. Approved by the boards of directors of both organizations, the code will be submitted to the membership of both groups at their conventions in January and February. Architect members of the joint committee have emphasized that the code is one of ethics and that deliberately matters of law were not included. The assumption is that both groups are required to work under the laws of the state of Wisconsin and that legal requirements provide only a minimum basis of morality. The code of ethics suggested is designed, its proposers declare, to define the standards of both groups.

In addition, the code, according to the joint committee, merely will provide an additional workable basis for an approach to working out the problems common to both organizations.

One committee member has stated that it is recognized the code is not perfect but that its adoption is urged so that it can be the basis for additional improvements.

Divisions Pick Officers, 1955 Director Nominees

The officers who will guide the 1955 affairs of the three divisions of the Wisconsin Architects Association have been chosen, along with Division nominees to the Board of Directors.

Perc Brandt, Manitowoc, was named president of the Northeastern Division at a meeting in Chilton, January 3. The vice-presidency went to Eugene Wasserman of Sheboygan, former secretary-treasurer of the group. Leonard H. Reinke, Oshkosh, will assume the duties of secretary-treasurer.

Julius S. Sandstedt, present president of the Association, and Maurey Lee Allen, former Northeastern Division president, were nominated as the group's divisional directors.

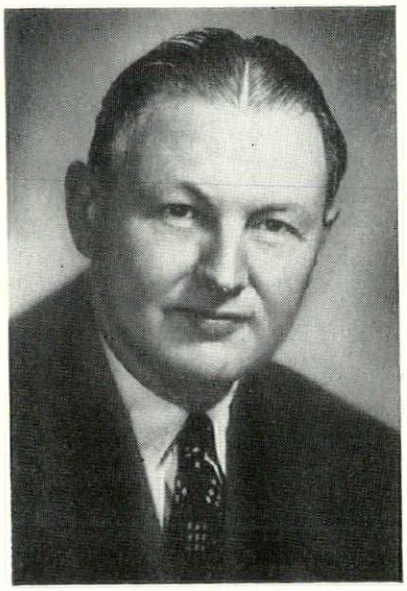
Milwaukee Division officers, elected January 11 in Milwaukee, are Herbert Grassold, president, Robert P. Potter (former secretary-treasurer), vice-president, and Herbert W. Bradley, secretary-treasurer.

Roger M. Herbst, former division president, was nominated to a two-year term on the Association's Board of Directors. Fritz von Grossmann, present state secretary-treasurer and Board member, was nominated for a one-year term as a division director.

Present Madison Division officers will remain in office pending the election of their successors. They are T. H. Flad, president; John W. Steinmann, Monticello, vice-president, and Carl H. Gausewitz, secretary-treasurer.

Divisional Directors nominated from the Madison Division are Joseph J. Weiler and William V. Kaeser. Both men are from Madison and currently are on the Board of Directors.

Gillett Named Producers' Council National Head



William Gillett

The presidency of the Producers' Council, the nation's largest organization of building material manufacturers, and their trade associations changed hands on January 1, when William Gillett, vice-president and a director of Detroit Steel Products Company succeeded retiring president Elliott C. "Jack" Spratt, St. Joseph, Mo. Spratt is secretary of Hillyard Chemical Company and vice-president of their eastern sales company.

Gillett, the unanimous selection of the representatives at the Council's annual meeting, has been associated with the construction industry and material production since his graduation from Case Institute of Technology in 1928. His first employment was with Holorib, Inc., a company later acquired by his present firm.

Milwaukee Code Form Revision Agreed Upon

The Milwaukee Building Inspection Department's recently-created Bulletin No. 59 requiring certification by the architect that the contractor has complied with the City Building Code, will be revised in the near future.

This form, prepared by the City of Milwaukee Department of Building Inspection and Safety Engineering, was issued in August, 1954 and occasioned considerable concern on the part of architects designing structures within the city of Milwaukee.

Milwaukee architects expressed themselves as being heartily in favor of continued careful inspection by the City Building Code Inspectors and also strongly for continued careful supervision of construction by the architect concerned.

The portion of the form which drew the most comment required that the architect "certify that all construction work on the premises" was "executed in accordance with all of the applicable regulations of the Milwaukee Building and Zoning Code of 1951, approved plans, specifications, terms of permit, and data filed with the application and permit".

Certain architects stated that the material requested by the report was essentially the same as that which would be completed by any competent architect during the course of his usual supervision of a structure for which he was responsible.

However, the requirement that the architect certify that the contractor has executed all of his work in accordance with the Building Code was believed to be so far beyond the architect's normal function that this portion of the form could not be complied with.

Meetings of the Milwaukee Division Code Committee, chairmaned by Arthur O. Reddemann, resulted in requests for written comments by interested architects. After study of Bulletin No. 59 by Wisconsin Architects Association legal counsel, Gerald J. Rice, a conference was scheduled between representatives of the architects' group, the Milwaukee Building Code Inspectors staff and the City Attorney's office. As a result of this conference it was determined that the certificate required by architects should read as follows:

> "I hereby certify that I have supervised the construction of this building and that all of the reports of inspection made upon this report are true and correct."

Milwaukee Division members expressed appreciation of the cooperation shown them by the Milwaukee Building Code Inspectors Office and applauded the Building Inspector for the completeness of the revised certified inspection report.

Associates to Receive A.I.A. Journal Along With Junior Associates

Associate as well as Junior Associate members of the Wisconsin Architects Association soon will begin to receive The American Institute of Architects Journal.

At its January 8 meeting, the Board of Directors approved a budget which includes $390.00 for this purpose. This action has long been desired and, it is believed, will be welcomed by the membership.

Nationwide Group of Architects Suggests AIA "Action" Program

A suggested program of action for the American Institute of Architects has been prepared and endorsed by a group of member architects which has urged "grass roots" members to consider the program at state conventions, endorse it and support it for acceptance by the Institute at the national convention.

The purpose of this program, according to its proposers, is "so that The Institute can become a more effective instrument assisting the architect to fulfill his professional responsibilities".

The group's recommendations have been published in booklet form and sent to chapter presidents by Thomas H. Creighton, Editor of Progressive Architecture. The purposes of the program, as stated in the brochure, are to: (1) improve the quality of output from the practicing profession; (2) improve movement from school through apprenticeship to practice; (3) improve functioning and widen the membership of the A.I.A. and, (4) improve public understanding and acceptance of the architect.

The preface to the program states it is an attempt to "coordinate" the findings of the Burdell Commission which conducted a survey of architectural practice, education, registration and apprenticeship and the Committee on Organization, set up to study the Institute's structure and functioning.

The suggested program lists nineteen recommendations: a planned program of advanced professional education, another on research; study and possible coordination of Institute publications, improvement of Fellowship requirements, coordination of movement from school through apprenticeship to practice, creation and definition of requirements for a new designation of "architects in training", studies toward a National Architectural Registration Examination, to determine the advisability of direct mail-ballot election of national officers, and many others.

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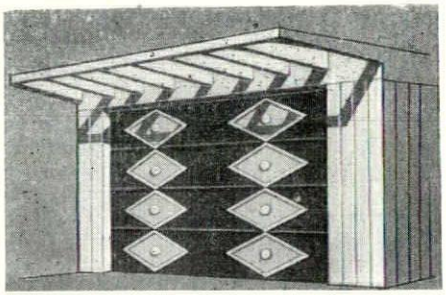

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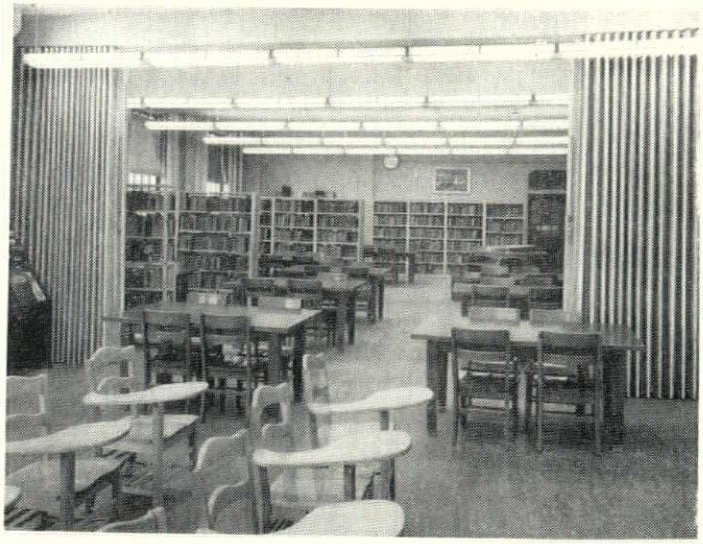

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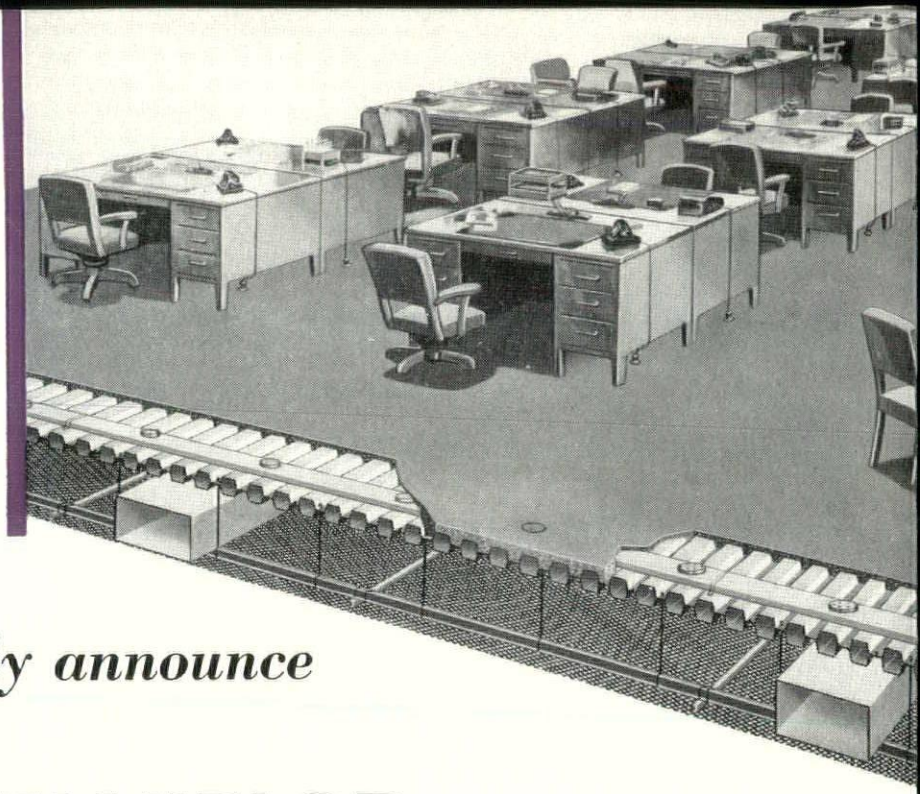

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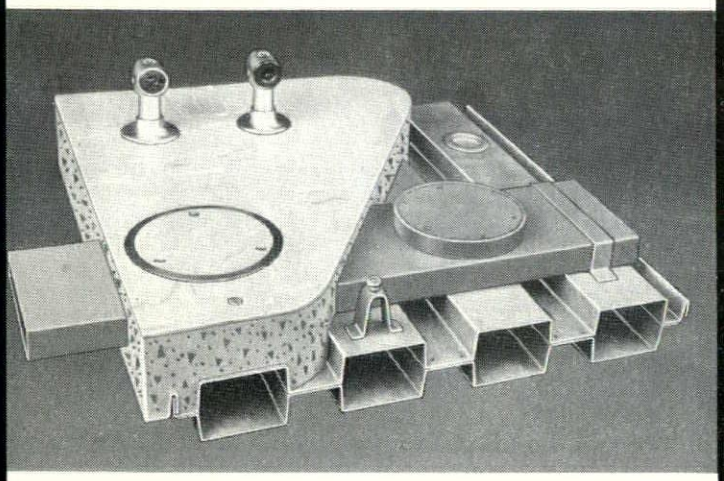

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